Investigations made earlier revealed that works contracts on Vijayawada Division of S.C. Railway like all other Divisions on Indian Railways, are awarded on rational basis as per rules, regulations and guidelines in vogue.

**Conversion of metre gauge lines into broad gauge in the country**

1507. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAIL-WAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to convert all metre gauge lines into broad gauge in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken; and

(c) the progress so far made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) Indian Railways have taken up an Action Plan under which Narrow Gauge and Metre Gauge lines will be selectively converted to Broad Gauge to move towards 'Uni-Gauge'. Under Phase-I of the Action Plan, 11.000 Kms M.G./N.G. lines have been identified of which 6.000 Kms are planned *to* be converted during VIII Plan subject to availability of resources. About 300 Km of track has since been converted.

**Foreign Projects undertaken by Indian Railway Constructon Company**

1508. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of RAIL WAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Railway Construction Company Ltd. has undertaken Foreign Projects; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Railway Construction Company Ltd. has/had undertaken Foreign Projects in Algeria, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Turkey and Zambia. Rajdhani Express

1509. DR. YELAMANCHTLT STVAJI: Will the Miniser of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the 'Rajdhani' services running at present;

(b) what are the capacities of each one of them;

(c) what is the time taken and kilometres covered by each one of them; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to start more Rajdhani Trains in the near future; if so, when and what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) :

| S. No. | Rajdhani Express | Capacity | | | Time Taken | Actual Kilometres in each direction. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Ist AC | A.C. 2-tier. | AC Chair Car. | | |
| 1. | 2301/2302 Howrah—New Delhi. | 36 | 225 | 500 | 17 hrs. 50 min.<br>17 hrs. 45 min. | 1441 |
| 2. | 2951/2952 Bombay Central—New Delhi. | 18 | 225 | 510 | 17 hrs. 00 min.<br>16 hrs. 30 min. | 1384 |
| 3. | 2953/2954 Bombay Central—New Delhi August Kranti. | 36 | — | 536 | 17 hrs. 10 min.<br>17 hrs. 20 min. | 1384 |
| 4. | 2619/2620 Bangalore —Secunderabad—Hazrat Nizamuddin. | 18 | 99 | 350 | 36 hrs. 15 min.<br>36 hrs. 30 min. | 2425 |

(d) A weakly Rajdhani between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Madras is being planned.